



NEWS RELEASE

Anniston Chemical Activity



September 9, 2010

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ADEM ASSESSES ANNISTON DISPOSAL FACILITY FINE

ANNISTON ARMY DEPOT, Ala. (September 9, 2010) - In a proposed consent order to be published this week, the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) has cited the operator of the Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (ANCDF) for self-reported shortcomings. ADEM also has proposed a civil penalty of \$27,420 be paid to the State environmental department.

ADEM granted a permit to the Army and Westinghouse Anniston in 1997 to build, test, and operate the ANCDF. The permit requires that ANCDF operations follow strict procedures and that all variances be reported on a regular basis. ADEM's order reflects its recent review of the latest noncompliance issues reported by ANCDF operators.

"The issues reported to ADEM reflect a very small percentage of all efforts that were accomplished in a compliant and safe manner," said Timothy K. Garrett, ANCDF government site project manager.

"We honestly document everything we do, even when we have shortcomings. We also document what was done to immediately bring operations back into compliance with the permit. Through cooperative efforts with the State regulators, I can assure the public and the work force their safety has not been compromised at anytime by ANCDF operations," Garrett said.

The ANCDF self-reported issues cited by ADEM included more than a dozen incidents out of thousands of items documented during the time period covered by ADEM.

(More)

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Operations at the ANCDF have been ongoing because ADEM has determined the self-reported noncompliance issues have not been egregious enough to pose a safety risk to the community, the environment, or the work force.

Safe demilitarization of the Anniston chemical munitions stockpile began in August 2003. Since then, ANCDF operators have processed 198,399 mustard-filled munitions, or 66.1 percent of Anniston's mustard munitions. ANCDF operators completed the two nerve agent campaigns in December 2008 with the demilitarization of the last VX-filled land mine. Altogether, 361,802 nerve agent munitions have been processed. To date, a total of 560,201 munitions (84.6 percent) have been eliminated from Anniston's stockpile.

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